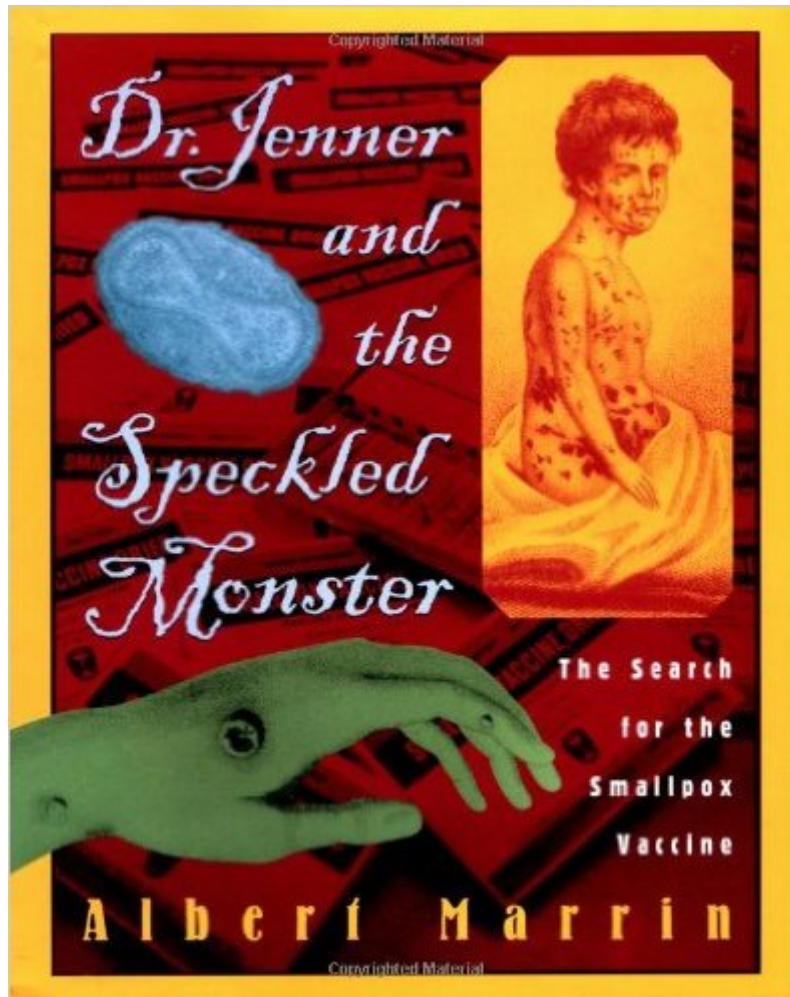


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# Dr. Jenner And The Speckled Monster: The Discovery Of The Smallpox Vaccine



## Synopsis

In 1796, an unknown country doctor named Edward Jenner developed and administered the world's first vaccine-turning the tide in humanity's age-old war against disease. Award-winning author Albert Marrin explains the significance of "immortal" Jenner's gift to mankind as he narrates the epic story of smallpox, a disease so contagious and deadly it has dramatically influenced the course of history. From the mummified remains of its first known victim to the sinister threat of the "frozen monster" that lurks in the vials of ultramodern laboratories, readers will be held spellbound by this readable and timely combination of science and history.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 990L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 96 pages

Publisher: Dutton Juvenile (October 14, 2002)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 7.4 x 0.6 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #343,512 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #37 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Modern](#) #243 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Science & Technology](#) #267 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Illness](#)

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

Before reading this book I might have written that I was informed about Dr. Jenner, smallpox and its history. After reading it I realize how ignorant I was. I saw the book in my grandson's school library and chose it to preview for bias and the interpretations that frequently replace knowledge in today's children's books. The author, a retired history professor, has written a book that begins with a discussion of cells, bacterial and viral disease and ends with a convincing statement about the dangers facing us today as a result of the disappearance of small pox throughout the world. In between is the most thrilling story about the efforts of an ordinary boy who became a man whose

efforts positively altered the lives of hundreds of millions of people. His personal qualities were a curious mind; the ability to observe; his dedication to his work; his confidence; and perseverance. The reader learns of the treatment of small pox prior to Jenner; of the various experiments leading to the development of the vaccination; of the objections by recognized leaders to Jenner's work and the ramifications of the eradication of smallpox. This is a thrilling story for the young scientist, but the book is written so well that all children (and adults) will be enthralled. Dr. Jenner is shown to be one of a handful of men who have altered the course of history and the lives of hundreds of millions of humans. The discussion of disease; medical techniques of the past; how one became a physician; historical differences between surgeons and physicians; the nature of opposition to ideas; the development of an idea; the personal characteristics that result in radical change; the importance of observation, thought and experimentation; the reality that the recognized establishment in an occupation is often ignorant and resistant to change are all presented in an engrossing and unsensational manner. The social effects (Native American exposure to small pox) are presented in a straight forward manner allowing a thoughtful child to open his mind to the concept of historical consequences without imposing blame or guilt. The discussion of medical experimentation; its evolution and ethical problems provide knowledge to a child that will be used later when a child reads and thinks further. I so admire the authors use of language and ability to discuss complicated issues on a child's level with sophisticated insight that I am buying other of Dr. Marrin's books.

This is an inspiring story about an inspiring and generous doctor who worked tirelessly for the good of ALL people. My daughter and I both love science, especially medically related and this book was a great read for that. We also enjoyed learning about the character of Dr. Jenner. Imagine how much faster medicine would have advanced if more doctors had his character. Even if your children are not interested in medicine, it's worth the read studying Dr. Jenner's character.

When I purchased this book I actually did not realize it was for younger readers. It was a great read none the less! It had plenty of information and was very interesting. This is a great book for teens, but also for anyone wanting to get a good look at the history of smallpox.

This was a remarkable book. The author was able to explain microbiology, immunology, the history of smallpox, and the development of a vaccine with wonderful clarity. I highly recommend this book for kids (and adults) in 4th grade and up!

Marrin is a favorite author and this one is a little different than others we've read (such as on Vietnam or WWI), with a slightly younger audience in mind, but just as meaty and interesting.

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